

EXETER-WEST GREENWICH July 19, 2011

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Gregory Coutcher, Chairperson; Teri Maia-Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Mark Rafanelli; Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, and Claudine Pande. Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross, Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar, and Attorney Vincent Ragosta, (arrived at 6:14 p.m.) were present.

ORDER – Chair Coutcher called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Clerk Zuercher read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – None

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Member McFadden made a motion to accept the consent agenda. Clerk Zuercher seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

A. Approval of Minutes – Revised Special Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2011; Regular Minutes of June 28, 2011; Executive Session Minutes of June 28, 2011

B. Personnel Items

1. Appointments – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)

a. Jeffrey Bain as 1.0 FTE Network Administrator, Annual Salary \$58,000, effective on or about August 1, 2011, contingent upon receipt of a non-disqualifying criminal background check

2. Leaves of Absence

3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)

a. Letter of Resignation from Steve Alves resigning his position as Assistant Football Coach, effective July 1, 2011

4. Grievances

5. Non-Renewals

6. Recalls

7. Sabbaticals

C. Bills – Bills in the amount of \$117,936.38; Accruals in the amount of \$61,646.84

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D. Home School Approvals

- 1. FRIEL – grades 2 and 5**
- 2. JODOIN – grades 4 and 2**
- 3. SHIPPEE – grades 3 and 3**
- 4. GREENE – grades 11, 9 and 6**

End Consent Agenda

Correspondence – None

Budget Update – 2011 – 2012 – Director of Administration Robert Ross reported that the 2011 – 2012 Budget is up and running. Purchasing will be held at 65% at this time. There are new challenges coming with the new UCOA (Uniform Chart of Accounts). The district's 2011 – 2012 finances are in good shape.

Monthly Status Reports – Superintendent – Members did not comment regarding the Monthly Status Reports.

Business

Special Education – None

Maintenance

Technology

NEW BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 8608: Health and Safety of Student-Athlete – 1st Reading – Dr. Geismar gave a brief overview of policy 8608 and reported that it has been reviewed with Principal Butler, Principal Smith, and Athletic Director Tim Daft. Once approved, the policy will put the district in compliance with the law.

Vice Chair Cicero offered her opinion that it is important for the District to partnership with a physician who specializes in concussions. She offered to facilitate exploring a specialist. In response to Member Rafanelli's inquiry, Dr. Geismar stated that the Athletic Director keeps records on coaches completing the required online concussion course in order to ensure that all coaches are properly trained. Member Rafanelli requested to have first aid kits readily available at athletic events and guidelines in place for coaches.

Member McFadden left the meeting at this time, (6:12 p.m.).

Member Rafanelli recommended having supplies, including ice, in the pump house and for coaches to have checklists. He volunteered to work with the AD to help facilitate this. Dr. Geismar said that he and Mr. Daft have talked about safety and he will be meeting with Principal Butler and Mr. Daft to talk about how to proceed safely. This policy will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for a second reading.

6220: Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug-Free Work Place – 1st Reading – Member McFadden returned to the meeting at this time and Attorney Vincent Ragosta arrived at this time, (6:14 p.m.)

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Dr. Geismar gave an overview of policy 6220. He voiced concern with language in the policy that it is illegal for an employee to possess tobacco products on school grounds. He understands that the use of tobacco products is prohibited but not the possession of these products. Policy subcommittee member Cicero stated that is a good point and recommended to have the policy subcommittee reconsider the possession language. Dr. Geismar brought forward a second issue regarding medical marijuana. He questioned if an employee has an approved medical prescription to use marijuana how that would be addressed without discriminating and if medical marijuana is used how that might affect an employee's job performance. Vice Chair Cicero offered her opinion that it still would not warrant for use on school premises. Dr. Geismar suggested sending these concerns back to policy subcommittee for consideration. Clerk Zuercher and Member Donovan agreed.

Approve Building Controls Service Contract – Director of Administration Robert Ross recommended the School Committee award the Building Control System bid to Automatic Temperatures Control, Inc.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve [awarding the Building Control System bid to Automatic Temperatures Control, Inc.]; seconded by Vice Chair Cicero.

Mr. Ross answered Member Rafanelli's clarifying question.

Chair Coutcher called for a vote on the motion made by Clerk Zuercher and seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Member Pande requested to revert to the previous discussion, [Policy 6220] to clarify concerns mentioned regarding the use of medical marijuana by an employee. Member Donovan questioned how to treat an employee under a physician's care with a physician's prescription under this policy. Additionally, the policy does not address employee's taking medicines before coming to work. She asked to expand on that and to make sure not to discriminate.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the use of medical marijuana by students during the school day, on school grounds, and before school and policy language to identify differences from illicit vs. prescribed drugs. Clerk Zuercher stated her opinion that the district would need to consider that medical marijuana and pain medicine are the same. Chair Coutcher proposed that the policy subcommittee could take up that discussion.

Approve Dell Lease – Mr. Ross requested the School Committee approve the Dell Lease Purchase agreement for the technology equipment needed for students, teachers, and staff. This purchase is primarily for the new reading program. Included are the wireless

laptop carts for the K-6 reading program and workstations for teachers and support staff to access the new student information system ASPEN. It is a four-year lease agreement for \$44,966 annually. Dr. Geismar asked for a consensus from the committee to continue

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to move forward on the wireless component as well. Members did not voice opposition. Mr. Ross verified that the school nurse teachers' computers are included in this update.

Member Pande moved to approve [the Dell Lease Purchase agreement]; seconded by Vice Chair Cicero; and voted 7 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Approve Wireless Access Contract – Mr. Ross told the School Committee that due to a timing issue of trying to drive costs down because this may ultimately become an outright purchase, this item would continue to the next regular meeting agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Sr. High School History Textbook Review/Adoption – Dr. Geismar stated that he would bring a purchase request to the next School Committee meeting for the purchase of sufficient books for all eleventh grade students. The increased number of books needed increases the purchase amount from \$2,200

to \$11,000, which is a good price that includes \$10,000 in free merchandise. However, the amount budgeted for is only \$3,000.

Mr. Ross left the meeting at this time, (6:39 p.m.)

Clerk Zuercher stated that she would like to wait to vote to adopt the textbook at the next meeting along with the purchase request. In response to Dr. Geismar's inquiry, Chair Coutcher recognized a consensus from the School Committee that no member is opposed to the adoption of the book.

Policies Review/Adoption – 8301: Student School Attendance – 2nd Reading – Dr. Geismar told the School Committee that policy 8301 reflects amendments requiring the development of an alternative learning plan for students whose parents wish to withdraw them from school before age 18. This is to address the new law. This policy will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for adoption.

Capital Project Update – Dr. Geismar reported that the Metcalf water system project is moving along on schedule. Mr. Ross has been in touch with the RI Department of Health and they are onboard with the project. The DOH will test the system when it is time.

Mr. Ross returned to the meeting at this time, (6:44 p.m.).

Dr. Geismar further reported that a Capital Project Building

Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2011. It is anticipated that the water system project will be completed by the middle of August or sooner. Mr. Ross reported that a completion date of August 20 is written in the contract.

Reports/Comments – None

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Important Dates and Meetings – Wednesday, July 20, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, July 27, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, August 9, 2011 – School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 10, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 17, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Tuesday, August 23, 2011 – School Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 24, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting; Wednesday, August 31, 2011 – Building Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Zuercher moved to go into Executive Session at 6:45 in accordance with 42-46-5 (a) (9) – CBA - Grievance(s); 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C-94/Teachers' Association)-Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted as follows:

Gregory Coutcher Yes

Teri Cicero Yes

Valerie Zuercher Yes

Mark Rafanelli Yes

Theresa Donovan Yes

Paul McFadden Yes

Claudine Pande Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 6:45 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Donovan seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:00 p.m.

During Executive Session, the following votes took place:

MOTION made by Member McFadden to deny all grievances; seconded by Member Rafanelli; and voted 7 – 0 unanimously in the affirmative.

Adjournment – Clerk Zuercher moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. Member Donovan seconded the motion. Voted 7 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO

CLERK